

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: video-1552631076

Other known title(s): Christchurch Mosque Shooting

OFLC ref: 1900617.000

Medium: Video File

Producer: Not stated

Country of origin: Aotearoa New Zealand

Language: English

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification:	Objectionable.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 24 December 2019

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 24 December 2019

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	video-1552631076	0:58
Total running time:		0:58

Summary of reasons for decision:

video-1552631076 is a digital video file that is 58 seconds in length. The publication is a video capture of a phone displaying a Facebook webpage playing Christchurch Mosque Attack Livestream (OFLC Ref: 1900148.000) The livestream appears to be the original broadcast on the alleged gunman's Facebook page as his profile name and image are seen below the livestream. The video captures 57 seconds of footage from Christchurch Mosque Attack Livestream that takes place between 6 minutes 17 seconds and 7 minutes 24 seconds. The video does not contain an audio track. Notifications appear at the top of the screen at times as does a video playback bar at the bottom. The video file captures the core essence of 'Christchurch Mosque Attack Livestream'. The video clearly documents a real act of extreme violence and cruelty – namely the graphic mass murder of unsuspecting and

defenceless worshippers at a mosque. There is nothing in the publication that mitigates or denounces the activity being depicted. The video is not presented in the context of media reporting on the atrocity, or as a piece of research or analysis into the event. Despite its brevity and the lack of sound, the publication presents the same purpose and effect as 'Christchurch Mosque Attack Livestream' and is also considered objectionable as it promotes and supports the infliction of extreme violence and extreme cruelty. There is no other reasonable reading of the publication. In making this decision, the right to freedom of expression – that is to seek, receive and impart information and opinions – protected under s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 was considered, together with the fact that under s5 of that Act this freedom is subject “only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society”. An objectionable classification is considered to be a demonstrably justified limit on that freedom in this case due to the high likelihood of significant injury to the public good arising directly from the video’s continued availability.